

19 March 69

Dear Hal.....

I assume you mean one Tom Bethell, whom Garrison has formally charged, we read, with giving the defense a copy of the prosecution's trial plan. Excuse me, but doesn't Garrison have an uncanny way of attracting defectors? If the letters are in fact now in the "public domain".....

You see, as an editor I have been thoroughly opposed to the idea that private correspondence of any kind be regarded as less than private correspondence. I do not regret the exception I made in your case, but I do feel compromised by the thought that the letters might now be "public." Most unfortunate, Hal. Keep the letters (the originals) as long as you like, as I've said, but let's try and control their use--eh?

News of the Ray "deal" staggers the imagination! They can't get away with it.....or can they? And who are "they"?

Well, I'm elbow deep in page proofs of Steppen. 3 and not, mebbe, in the best of moods. But the Republic's eagle looks tarnished.

In haste, but all good wishes,

A handwritten signature, likely "Phil", written in dark ink. It consists of a large, stylized capital 'P' followed by a smaller 'h' and a vertical line.